

VANA MARDIG

(Soviet Armenia)

Rhythm: 2/4 described by the counts in this description

Source: The dance is from Sasnashen village, Talin province, central west Soviet Armenia. Tom Bozigian learned the dance from several sources during the early 1970s while a dance student in Soviet Armenia in the early 1970s. It is now in the dance repertoire of many Armenian performing groups. Vana Mardig, sometimes called "Martakan", means "warrior of Van" and uses the rich variety of "Kerteh" or hop-step-step type movement.

Formation: Line dance with little finger hold and leader at right

Counts STEPS

Kerteh (hop-step-step)

- 1 Moving LOD, hop on L as R heel, with R leg straight, strikes floor in front
& Leap ahead on R as L heel lifts behind
2 Repeat count 1 with opposite footwork

Vanetsee Kerteh Gaghov (limping Kerteh)

- 1 Moving sideways to the R, hop on L as R toe touches on floor beside L
& Leap R beside L as L knee raises in front and torso bends backwards
2 Do a slight leap L over R as R heel lifts slightly and torso becomes upright.

Armenian Ver Veree (skipping step)

- & Hop on L as R leg straightens over floor
1 Leap on R in front of L
2 Hop on R as L lifts behind

THE DANCE

- 1-10 With hands down facing and moving LOD, execute 5 Kerteh steps. On 4th Kerteh, turn to touch in RLOD.
11-12 Continuing LOD, execute 1 Ver Veree step
13 Turning diagonally to RLOD, leap onto both feet in demi-plie with L ahead of R, as hands raise to "W" position
14 & Bounce twice on both as legs straighten
15-16 & Repeat counts 13-14 &, except at "&" L raises slightly and sharply
17 Moving RLOD, stamp L ahead, with weight and slight plie
18 Continuing RLOD, stamp R ahead, with weight and slight plie
19 Turning to face diagonally LOD, hop R in place as L knee raises in front
20 Stamp L over R, with weight
21-22 Repeat counts 19-20 with opposite footwork and direction
23-24 Repeat counts 19-20 facing completely LOD on count 24
25-28 Moving outside, execute 2 Vanetsee Kerteh Gaghov steps as hands go down
29-30 Execute 1 Ver Veree step in place
31-32 Stamp L, with weight, ahead of R as hands raise to "W" position
33-34 Repeat counts 19-20 with opposite footwork and direction
35-36 Repeat counts 19-20. Hands go down on count 36.